

IRISH UNIVERSITIES ACT, 1908.

R E P O R T

OF THE

BELFAST COMMISSIONERS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116 GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN; or
WYMAN & SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, E.C., and 32 ABBINGTON STREET, S.W.; or
OLIVER & BOYD, TWEEDEDALE COURT, EDINBURGH.

PRINTED BY

CAHILL & CO., LTD., 40 LOWER ORMOND QUAY, DUBLIN.
1911.

[Cd. 5929.] Price 1d.

IRISH UNIVERSITIES ACT, 1908.

REPORT

OF THE BELFAST COMMISSIONERS TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, the Belfast Commissioners appointed under the Irish Universities Act, 1908, have, in accordance with the provisions of the said Act, carried out our Statutory duties, and now humbly submit our Report for Your Majesty's gracious consideration.

1. His late Majesty King Edward the Seventh appointed His Honour James Johnston Shaw to be Chairman of the Commission. At our first meeting, held on November 18th, 1908, in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act, we appointed four of our number, viz., the Chairman, the Reverend Thomas Hamilton, Mr Robert T. Martin, and Professor Johnson Symington, to act as members of the Joint Committee of the Dublin and Belfast Commissioners. We also, with the consent of the Treasury, appointed Mr Arthur Jaffé, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, to be our Secretary.

2. By Section 4 of the Act we were entrusted with the duty of making Statutes for the general government of the new University having its seat in Belfast, which was founded by a Charter granted by His late Majesty King Edward the Seventh, and named The Queen's University of Belfast.

These Statutes were framed and amended from time to time, after taking into consideration representations made to us by the Corporate Body of Queen's College, Belfast, until that body was dissolved by order of Your Majesty's Lord Lieutenant in Ireland, and afterwards by the Governing Body, the Academic Council, the Faculties, and other Authorities of the University. We also received and considered representations made to us by deputations from various bodies connected with the City of Belfast, such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Library and Technical Instruction Committee of the Belfast Corporation, and by other bodies and persons interested in higher education in Ireland.

Chapters I to XXXVIII of the Statutes were framed under the direction of our first Chairman, and regulated the powers and duties of all the Authorities and Officers of the University, and the conditions under which the University may confer degrees and other distinctions. They were sealed on the 17th day of May, 1909, and the University was thus enabled to begin its work immediately on the dissolution of the Royal University of Ireland and Queen's College, Belfast, on 31st October, 1909. The Declaration set out in Statute Chapter XVIII, section 13, is in the form approved by the Joint Committee, as provided by Section 3, sub-section 2, of the Act; it has now been signed by every Professor and Lecturer appointed by us.

Additional Statutes were made from time to time, *inter alia* to found a Faculty of Commerce, to provide for the establishment of a Pension Scheme for the benefit of officers who were not existing officers of Queen's College, Belfast, and to regulate the conditions under which the Senate may, in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Charter, recognise as Colleges two public institutions, viz., the Municipal Technical Institute, Belfast, and the Royal College of Science for Ireland, Dublin.

At the instance of the Senate and of other bodies representing the interests of Commerce, of Technology, and of the extension of University teaching in the City of Belfast and throughout the Province of Ulster, we also framed Statutes providing for the establishment of Advisory Committees to deal with these subjects in order that the University may have the advantage of consultation with persons possessing special knowledge of local conditions and requirements. The University will thus, it is believed, be better able to make suitable provision for the higher education of all the various sections of the community, and to establish and maintain helpful relations with bodies and persons who are desirous of promoting the advancement and the diffusion of knowledge in Ireland.

For the sake of convenience of reference we have incorporated the amending and supplementary Statutes with the original Statutes in one text, which is set out, preceded by the Charter in pursuance of which they were framed, in Appendix A hereto.

3. In accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the Act due notice of the making of the Statutes was published in the *Dublin Gazette*, and they were thereafter laid before both Houses of Parliament. No address for their disallowance was presented by either House to Your Majesty. Petitions were, however, presented to the Lord Lieutenant in Council by various persons praying that certain provisions of the Statutes, Chapter XVI, might be disallowed. These Petitions were referred to the Irish Universities Committee of the Privy Council, and after a hearing before the Committee on October 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1909, His Excellency in Council, on the Report of the Committee, decided that the Petitions should be dismissed.

4. Previous to making the first appointments to all offices in the University, in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Act, it was necessary that we should estimate, to the best of our ability, the income and expenditure of the University.

We did not consider that the arrangement, under which the Professors of Queen's College had a separate and exclusive interest in the class-fee of their own departments, was one which it was desirable to adopt in the case of the University. We therefore decided to fix a normal salary for each Chair; but at the same time we arranged to assign to each Professor a supplementary payment from the general funds of the University, proportional to his normal salary, and based upon the aggregate amount of the class-fee of the University, when the aggregate in any year should exceed a certain fixed sum.

This arrangement, while it provides for an augmentation of the normal salary of each Professor dependent on the general prosperity of the University as a teaching institution, will enable the Senate, with greater freedom, to make such alterations in class-fee or such re-adjustments in the work of particular Professors as may from time to time be found desirable.

5. The appointments made under Section 15 of the Act consisted of

(a) Appointments to equivalent offices offered to existing officers of Queen's College, Belfast, under a Scheme which we were directed to make in pursuance of Section 16 of the Act, and which is set out in Appendix A.

(b) Appointments to new Professorships, Lectureships, and other offices which we from time to time created, and which in most cases we thought it desirable to fill up without delay in order that the holders might enter upon their duties at the commencement of the first session (1909-10) of the University. The names of Professors, Lecturers, and administrative officers appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 15, subsection 2, of the Act, who are not included in the above-mentioned Scheme, are also set out in Appendix A.

When the normal salary of a Chair offered to an existing officer under the above-mentioned Scheme was less than the remuneration of his existing office, we provided that he should, during the remainder of his tenure, receive such additional sum as would render his new office an equivalent office within the meaning of Section 19 of the Act.

The annual sums which we fixed as the pensionable emoluments of the President, full-time Professors, and other officers and servants of the Queen's

University of Belfast, whose pension rights, as they existed under their previous appointments in Queen's College, Belfast, are secured by Section 16, sub-section 8, of this Act, are set out in Appendix A. The provisions regarding these sums came into force on 1st October, 1909, and an officer will be entitled after three years' service in his new office to have his pension calculated upon the basis of the amount set opposite his name. Should his service in his new office be for any number of years less than three, his pension will be calculated on the basis of the average emoluments for the last three years of service in accordance with the provisions of the Superannuation Acts.

6. On 27th April, 1910, we had the misfortune to lose by death our first Chairman, who during two years had ably guided our deliberations. The following resolution, passed by the Commissioners, bears testimony to the feeling he had inspired in his colleagues—

"That the Belfast Commission desire to place on record their profound sorrow at the loss they have suffered in the death of their Chairman, His Honour Judge Shaw, K.C. Only those who sat with him on the Commission can fully know how much the new University owes to his clear judgment, legal acumen, and high academic spirit, combined with intense devotion to the College in which he himself received his education. The Statutes of the University will remain as a monument of the great qualities which Judge Shaw brought to the task of directing the labours of the Commission. The Commissioners will only add that the late Judge's delicate tact, geniality, and kindness of heart will always make the recollection of their two years' labour under his guidance one to be affectionately cherished."

Your Majesty was graciously pleased to appoint one of our number, Principal Sir Donald MacAlister, K.C.B., to be Chairman in place of His Honour Judge Shaw.

The vacancy on the Joint Committee caused by Judge Shaw's death was filled by the appointment of Sir Samuel Dill, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

7. Pursuant to the terms of the Act, Your Majesty, by Order in Council dated the 23rd day of January, 1911, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, expressed Your Majesty's pleasure that our powers should be continued, as from the 1st day of January, 1911, for a further period of seven months, ending the 31st day of July, 1911.

8. In view of the nature of our duties as a Commission, we did not consider it necessary to record for submission to Your Majesty the formal evidence of witnesses upon any of the matters we were empowered to deal with.

9. Although it did not come within our prescribed functions, we thought it expedient to advise and assist the newly created Authorities of the University in respect of a number of matters which it became their duty to regulate.

(a) Under the provisions of the Charter the authority to frame Regulations prescribing the courses of study and examinations for degrees rests with the Senate. It was, however, necessary that we should consider questions relating to such Regulations when framing the corresponding Statutes, and the first Regulations of the University dealing with these subjects were accordingly submitted in draft for our approval before being formally prescribed by the Senate.

(b) After estimating the probable income of the University, we also recommended that the Senate, in the absence of a sufficient number of special endowments, should, for the present, assign a sum of over £2,500 per annum from the general funds for the provision of Scholarships. We hope, however, that this charge will ere long be diminished by the liberality of private benefactors. The foundation of Scholarships for the maintenance of deserving students is an object which we believe will commend itself to friends of the University. In proportion as such new Scholarships are established, the funds now assigned by the Senate for the purpose may be liberated for other uses.

(c) In connexion with the above-mentioned Statute, Chapter XXXIX, giving authority for the provision of Pensions, we thought it our duty to consider carefully the question of the relative advantages of (1) an arrangement to be made by the Senate with an Insurance Company, and (2) a plan whereby

the Senate should itself undertake the management and investment of the proceeds of the Pension Fund, with a view to the operation of the Superannuation Scheme which we drew up for the use and guidance of the Senate. We decided to recommend strongly that an arrangement should be made with an Insurance Company for this purpose. The Scheme is set out in Appendix A, and for information the normal salaries attached to all pensionable offices are set out in the Schedule thereto.

(d) The recognition of Colleges under the provisions of the Act and Charter was committed to the Senate, but at its request we conducted negotiations with the Library and Technical Instruction Committee of the Belfast Corporation and with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, which led to the recognition by the Senate of the Municipal Technical Institute, Belfast, and the Royal College of Science for Ireland, Dublin. In carrying out these negotiations we received invaluable assistance from Mr T. P. Gill, the Secretary of the Department. The terms of the Agreement entered into between the Corporation and the University with reference to the former College are also set out in Appendix A.

9. The Schemes and Orders made by the Joint Committee of the Dublin and Belfast Commissioners in the exercise of their powers under Sections 14 and 16 of the Act, are set out in Appendix B.

In conclusion, we desire to express our high appreciation of the services rendered to the Commission by its Secretary, Mr Arthur Jaffé. His University experience, legal knowledge, and business ability have been freely placed at its disposal, and have enabled him to contribute materially to the efficient discharge of the responsibilities with which the Commission was charged. The members of the Commission, at the close of their labours, retain a grateful recollection of his assiduity and helpfulness.

All which we humbly submit for Your Majesty's gracious consideration.

SEALED WITH THE COMMON SEAL OF THE BELFAST

COMMISSIONERS THIS 31ST DAY OF JULY, 1911.



DONALD MACALISTER,
Chairman.

SAMUEL DILL.
THOMAS HAMILTON.
ROBERT T. MARTIN.
ARTHUR W. RÜCKER.
JOHNSON SYMINGTON.

ARTHUR JAFFÉ,
Secretary.